

From: Brian Finn
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:21pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Good People at the Department of Justice,

I am writing to you today to express my dismay at one of the remedies discussed in the proposed settlement for Microsoft's anticompetitive actions. This remedy states that Microsoft will not be allowed to retaliate against Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) who sell PCs that can run either Windows or another operating system. This, in effect, forces OEMs to sell Windows to their customers, whether they want it or not. In the past, an OEM customer who wanted a prebuilt computer to run Linux (or FreeBSD, or any other non-Microsoft operating system) had to buy a Windows PC, delete Windows, and then install the new operating system. This has been half-seriously referred to as the "Windows Tax". With the remedy in place, the customer does not have to install the new operating system, but still must pay for and delete Windows from the PC. The "Windows Tax" is still in place! The language of the agreement should be changed so that OEMs cannot be punished by Microsoft for selling PCs that only use a non-Microsoft operating system.

Thanks,
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